(c) whether Government would regularise their services; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) MTNL is a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Telecommunication in the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected from field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tensile strength of aerogrammes

3836. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aerogrammes in India are made of recycled paper and therefore they do not have proper tensile strength;

(b) whether it has been brought to Government's notice that they are not withstanding machine handling in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propse to impove their quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. The aerogrammes in India were made of 56 GSM blue wove-paper at India Security Press and these had proper tensile strength.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some reports to this effect have been received by the Government.

(c) A new aerogramme on 70 GSM blue wove-paper with higher tensile strength has been released with effect from 1st January, 2002.